

**Amendments to the Claims**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims:**

1. (currently amended) A method comprising:

upon receiving a device command from a first host for a data transfer operation to a storage device,

- i) reserving for the first host the storage device targeted by the device command;
- ii) setting a reservation time period for expiration of a reservation of the storage device, the reservation time period being determined based on a command type of the device command; and
- iii) preventing other hosts from interfering with the data transfer operation between the first host and the storage device during the reservation time period.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising upon receiving a second device command from the first host, resetting the reservation time period.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

upon receiving a device command targeted to the device from a second host,  
determining if the device is reserved; and  
if the device is reserved to a host other than the second host , denying the device command from the second host.

4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein determining if the device is reserved comprises determining if the reservation time period has expired.

5. (original) The method of claim 3, further comprising if the device is not reserved, executing the device command from the second host.

6. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the device command from the second host comprises a clear command.

7. (cancelled)

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the device command comprises one of a write command, a rewind command, a read command, a load command, an unload command, and a seek command.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the device command comprises a tape device command.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the device command comprises a disk device command.

11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the device command comprises a Small Computer System Interface (SCSI) command.

12. (withdrawn) A method comprising:

upon receiving a first command of a predetermined type from a first host, and if a device targeted by the first command is not reserved,

- i) reserving the device for the first host; and
- ii) setting a predefined reservation time period for expiration of the reservation, the predefined reservation time period not being specified by the first device command;

upon receiving a subsequent command of a predetermined type from the first host, while the device is reserved for the first host, resetting the reservation time period; and

upon receiving the subsequent command of a predetermined type from the first host, when the reservation status is not reserved for the first host, processing the subsequent command as the first command.

13. (withdrawn) The method of claim 12, further comprising upon receiving a second command of a predetermined type targeted to the device from a second host, while the device is reserved for the first host, denying the second command.

14. (withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the second command comprises one of a write command, a rewind command, a read command, a load command, an unload command, and a seek command.

15. (withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the second command comprises a clear command.

16. (cancelled)

17. (withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the first command and the second command comprise Small Computer Systems Interface (SCSI) commands.

18. (withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein the second command comprises one of an inquiry command, a request sense command, and a log sense command.

19. (withdrawn) An apparatus comprising:

an interface to receive commands from a plurality of hosts;  
a reservation agent, communicatively coupled to the interface, the reservation agent to determine if a device targeted by a first command is reserved, and if the device is not reserved, to reserve the device for a first host initiating the first command, and to set a reservation time period for expiration of the reservation, the reservation time period being based on a command type of the device command.

20. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the reservation agent is further to deny a second command targeted to the device received from a second host while the device is reserved to the first host.

21. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the reservation agent is further to reset the reservation time period upon receiving a second command targeted to the device from the first host while the device is reserved for the first host.

22. (withdrawn) An apparatus comprising:

first means for receiving commands from a plurality of hosts; and  
second means, communicatively coupled to the first means, for determining if a device targeted by a first command is reserved, for reserving the device for a first host initiating the first command upon receiving the first command while the device is not reserved, and for setting a reservation time period for expiration of the reservation, the reservation time period being based on a command type of the device command.

23. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the second means further comprises means for denying a second command targeted to the device received from a second host while the device is reserved for the first host.

24. (withdrawn) A method comprising:

upon receiving a device command from a first host,  
i) reserving for the first host a device targeted by the device command; and  
ii) setting a predefined reservation time period for expiration of the reservation, the predefined reservation time period not being specified by the device command.

25. (withdrawn) A method comprising:

upon receiving a device command from a first host,  
i) reserving for the first host a device targeted by the device command; and

- ii) setting a reservation time period for expiration of the reservation, the reservation time period being set to begin running after the device command has executed.